Skatepark Advisory Task Force

Meeting Summary 4/20/2006

<u>Task Force Members Present</u>: Joe Bell, George Blomberg, John Carr, Susanne Friedman, Jelani Jackson, Matt Johnston, Christine Larsen, Joyce Moty, Scott Shinn,

Task Force Members Absent: Jeanne Krikawa, Nin Troung,

<u>Guests:</u> Catherine Anstett, Steve Arai, Laura Weigel, Mark Green, Meagan Snow, Kevin Kelly,

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Accomplishments, Shift in Schedule, New Meeting Dates (Susanne Friedman) Ms. Friedman summarized the Task Force (TF) accomplishments since the previous meeting, which included:

- Unanimous selection by the sub-committee of a project consultant Arai Jackson, with Hough Beck and Baird, and Grindline as sub-consultants. Scott Shinn and John Carr summarized the sub-committee's decision making process and strengths of the final consultant choice.
- Progress of intern, Valerie Porter's work on regional and national siting criteria used by other municipalities,
- Progress on U.W. GIS course work to supplement Arai Jackson's GIS work.

After reviewing the scope of work with the consultants, the decision was made to hold the first round of public meetings in early June '06. As a result of this decision, the initial TF meeting schedule was modified slightly to work around the public meeting dates. Briefings to the Park Board and Councilmember Della's PELL committee remain the same. Meeting dates for the Task Force and public meetings are listed on the project's webpage:

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/Skatepark.htm .

Introductions and Welcome to Arai Jackson (AJEM) & U.W. GIS students

- Steven Arai, Laura Weigel
- UW Mark Green, Meagan Snow, Kevin Kelly

Discussion on Public Meeting Format, Content and Information Gathering (Steve Arai & Laura Weigel)

Steve and Laura presented an outline agenda to the TF as a way to receive feedback and direction from them on the format for the first round of public meetings. The agenda was presented and discussed in five parts.

Framework

AJEM went through the framework portion of the presentation. In response the TF asked AJEM to; define urban planning, define what the master plan is and to explain why the master plan is being created.

TF wants the public to understand that public involvement is a critical element of the planning process. AJEM should explain how the community can participate in the planning process and later in the design process. It is important to explain that the master plan is not site design specific. (Once sites are identified, the community will be engaged in a public planning and design process that will focus on specific design elements for that site.) Through the first phase of the public process the TF wants to uncover community concerns, identify advocates, start neighborhood dialogues, and identify "hotspots." The process will be transparent from planning stage through design stage.

There was also consensus that we need to identify the post master planning process. How do the parks get built? What is the implementation recipe?

Education Component

AJEM outlined a number of topics to present. TF directed AJEM to continue developing the perceptions of skateboarding and skaters section of the presentation and to specifically address concerns related to: graffiti, senior citizens, the business community, and skaters concerns that ticketing by police will increase once legal skateparks are created.

Typologies

AJEM presented typology frameworks based on the typologies identified in the City of Seattle's adopted "Skateboard Park Policy" issued in August 2003, Portland Parks and Recreation typologies, and other identified typologies.

Task Force tentatively agreed upon 4 typologies to present to public for discussion, although full definitions were not crafted:

Skatedots Skatespots District Skateparks Regional Skatepark

TF pointed out that there are no good models for the "skatedot" typology. Skatedots are unconstrained skate "paths" or features as opposed to constrained "park" which enable skate venue dispersion, and are an urban solution to creating more legally skateable terrain without the funding that is required to build larger skateparks. See Matt Johnston's "Skateable Cities" paper for further explanation of "skatedots."

TF asked AJEM to illustrate comparables - both skateparks and other types of recreational facilities, such as: a skatespot is approximately equal to the size of a tennis court. Seattle has the Ballard Bowl, which is a "skatespot" and Lower Woodland, in the design phase, will be a "district skatepark."

TF also asked AJEM to research King County skateparks to determine if they have a typology system.

Siting Criteria

AJEM presented lists of siting criteria based on the typologies identified in the City of Seattle's adopted "Skateboard Park Policy" issued in August 2003, Portland Parks and Recreation typologies, and other identified typologies.

There was concern that Seattle' criteria is outdated. The Task Force agreed that revised criteria should be based on tiered system like Portland's. TF agreed that even if every criterion is met it is not a guarantee that the site will be selected. TF discussed the possibility of identifying site criteria as criteria considerations.

The TF discussed how the term "existing use" should be defined. City policy will not allow skatepark sites to replacing an existing use like a tennis court or baseball field, but inactive open space may be considered for development.

Due to time constraints AJEM requested that each TF member take home the siting criteria spreadsheet and develop a proposed list of siting criteria based on the information provided. Revised spreadsheets are due to AJEM by noon, April 27.

Site Selection

AJEM outlined the how site selection process will work, which is as follows:

- Solicit ideas at public meetings in June
- TF subcommittee to identify Parks, Port, SDOT and School District Property that might be available for potential skatepark sites along with sites suggested by community
- Narrow down sites during the summer based on evaluation criteria and public feedback
 - Process to include analysis of adopted neighborhood plans and park planning already underway
- Present revised site list to public in the Fall
- Based on feedback from public narrow list of proposed sites to present to:
 - The Parks Board then revise based on feedback and present to:
 City Council

Public Meeting Flyer Content (Catherine Anstett, Seattle Parks and Recreation) Catherine Anstett distributed a draft flyer for the three public meetings that are being planned for June, as well as a draft list of groups and mailing lists to be included in outreach for the meetings. The Task Force will provide additional contacts to be included in the outreach. The three public meetings will be held in Southwest, Southeast and North Seattle. Exact meeting locations are still being determined They will include two evening meetings, as well as a daytime meeting on a weekend.

Upcoming Skatepark Tour (John Carr)

John Carr has put together an agenda for the Task Force's Saturday skatepark tour. The first group will be leaving from 100 Dexter at 10:00 am, on 4/22/06, returning early afternoon, the second group will be scheduled the following weekend, 4/29/06. Sites to be visited are listed below.

Ballard - http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/BallardCommonsPark.htm Lower Woodland - http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/lowerwoodland.htm

Mukilteo – http://www.policygov.com/skate/mukilteo.html
http://www.policygov.com/skate/muk.html

Mill Creek - http://www.cityofmillcreek.com/parksrec/parks/skate_park.htm Shoreline -

http://www.skateboardpark.com/skateboardpark/viewpark.asp?ID=3023

Kirkland - http://www.skatespots.com/wa-krk.html

http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/parks/Youth_Services/Youth_Council/KYC_Projects.htm

Redmond - http://www.skateoregon.com/Redmond/Redmond.html

Sea Skate -

http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/location/detail.asp?VE_VenueNum=107
Marginal Way - http://www.marginalwayskatepark.org/
http://www.rivercityskatepark.com/

Renton - http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/commserv/parks/skateprk.htm
Des Moines -

http://www.concretedisciples.com/skateparksdb/skateparks_display.php?id=830

Kent (dent) - http://www.policygov.com/skate/kent.html http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/maps/map.exe?poi1name=Kent+Lion's+Skate+Park&poi 1streetaddress=West+Smith+Street+and+6th+Avenue+North&poi1city=Kent&poi1 State=WA&poi1zip=98032&poi1iconid=204&icontitles=yes

Kent (clover) -

http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/maps/map.exe?poi1name=West+Hill+Skate+Park&poi1s treetaddress=Reith+Road+and+42nd+Avenue+South&poi1city=Kent&poi1State=W A&poi1zip=98032&poi1iconid=204&icontitles=yes

Burien - http://www.djc.com/special/concrete01/skatepark.html
Milton - http://www.pps.org/great_public_spaces/one?public_place_id=779
Sprinker - http://www.policygov.com/skate/sprinker.html

Key Points

- Education is the key to dispelling the myth. Need to be reaching the 'older crowd,' businesses and neighbors.
- The project needs to be clear in its message of 'what does it take to be a good neighbor' (reference to the development of responsive siting criteria, the development of appropriate skate typologies and the application to specific sites).
- Public participation in the process is critical to achieving a citywide plan that citizens embrace.
- This process is not about delivering skateparks, but about the development of a strategic master plan for the future development of skateparks in Seattle.
- Four skatepark typologies were agreed upon for the citywide system:
 - Skatedots
 - Skatespots
 - District Skateparks
 - o Regional Skatepark
- The North end public meeting needs to be held in a central location. Ballard already has a skatebowl, need to pull in other neighborhoods.

Next Meeting Date 5/18/2006 100 Dexter, Park Board Room 5:30 - 7:30 pm